United Nations S/2016/263

Security Council

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Letter dated 18 March 2016 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to inform you that your letter dated 4 March 2016 (S/2016/211) concerning preparations relating to the establishment of a political mission in Colombia has been brought to the attention of the members of the Security Council. They thank you for your update and, pursuant to Security Council resolution 2261 (2016), look forward to your detailed recommendations, for their consideration and approval, regarding the size, operational aspects and mandate of the mission, consistent with the joint communiqué between the Government of Colombia and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia — People's Army (S/2016/53, annex), within 30 days of the signature of the ceasefire agreement by those two parties, in the light of its provisions.

(*Signed*) Ismael Abraão Gaspar **Martins**
President of the Security Council

16-04459 (E) 210316

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United Nations A/70/792–S/2016/264

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
21 March 2016

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General Assembly
Seventieth session
Agenda item 34
Prevention of armed conflict

Security Council
Seventy-first year

Letter dated 18 March 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Qatar to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to convey to your attention updated information on the mediation efforts undertaken by the State of Qatar since 2010 to assist in reaching a compromise settlement of the border disagreement between the Republic of Djibouti and the State of Eritrea, in particular the issue of Djiboutian prisoners of war held in the State of Eritrea.

As a result of the continued efforts of the good offices of Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani, Emir of the State of Qatar, for mediation between the Eritrean and Djiboutian parties, and following the recent visits to Doha by Ismael Omar Guelleh, President of the Republic of Djibouti, and Isaias Afwerki, President of the State of Eritrea, a number of Djiboutian prisoners of war held in the State of Eritrea have been released.

In this regard, Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al-Thani, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the State of Qatar, who is currently in the Republic of Djibouti in connection with the release of the Djiboutian prisoners, has welcomed the release of the Djiboutian prisoners, which came as a result of the positive response by the State of Eritrea to the Qatari mediation efforts. He further expressed his hope that this development would be a step forward in the process of the resolution of the remaining disagreements between the Republic of Djibouti and the State of Eritrea.

We will keep you informed of new developments in a timely manner.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter brought to the attention of the members of the Security Council and circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 34, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Alya Ahmed S. **Al-Thani**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

16-04565 (E) 240316

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United Nations A/70/797–S/2016/265

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
22 March 2016

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General Assembly
Seventieth session
Agenda item 44
Question of Cyprus

Security Council
Seventy-first year

Letter dated 18 March 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 18 March 2016, addressed to you by a representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, Mehmet Dânâ (see annex).

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 44, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Y. Halit **Çevik**
Permanent Representative

16-04678 (E) 240316

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Annex to the letter dated 18 March 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

It has come to my attention that the Greek Cypriot representative, in his purported capacity as the representative of Cyprus, delivered a statement on 15 February 2016 during the open debate of the Security Council on the theme "Maintenance of international peace and security: respect for the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations as a key element for the maintenance of international peace and security", in which you also participated.

Unfortunately, the Greek Cypriot representative has once again raised false allegations regarding the Cyprus problem. At a time when the two sides on the island are expected to avoid blame games or other negative statements, such a one-sided presentation of the Cyprus problem is evidently not conducive to the settlement efforts.

The historical facts on the matter are unequivocally clear. The 1960 partnership Republic of Cyprus collapsed in 1963 when the Greek Cypriot militia attacked the Turkish Cypriot people. Since then, all of the United Nations efforts aimed at a comprehensive settlement, including the Annan plan of 2004, have not produced a positive outcome as they were all rejected by the Greek Cypriot side.

The Turkish Cypriot side, on the other hand, has always stood on the side of a fair and just settlement on the island, which will take into consideration the legitimate rights and interests of both Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots in Cyprus. Turkey's support and Turkish Cypriots' acceptance of the United Nations Comprehensive Settlement Plan of 2004 is yet another testament to this reality beyond any doubt.

As there was a reference in the above-mentioned statement to the Security Council resolutions on Cyprus, to set the record straight, I deem it necessary to reiterate that none of the Security Council resolutions on Cyprus refer to the legitimate intervention of Guarantor Turkey as "invasion" and its subsequent presence on the island as "occupation". The fact of the matter is that the intervention of Turkey in 1974, which was conducted in line with her rights and obligations under the 1960 Treaty of Guarantee, was inevitable in the wake of a coup d'état carried out by the junta regime in Greece with the help of Greek Cypriot collaborators in Cyprus, which sought to annex the island to Greece.

The Turkish Cypriot side is of the view that there is a unique window of opportunity in 2016 to finally bring the Cyprus problem to a close through a mutually acceptable settlement based on the Joint Statement of 11 February 2014, in particular, and on the established United Nations parameters on Cyprus, in general. The considerable progress achieved to date under the auspices of your mission of good offices is yet another indication that the remaining difficult issues can also be tackled successfully if political will and determination for a settlement prevail over all other considerations. During this critical juncture, it is crucial that the repetition of the old, archaic narrative, based on seeing the other as an opponent rather than a future partner, can only be counterproductive and should be avoided at all costs.

As the Turkish Cypriot side, we remain determined to focus on the task at hand, which is to find a comprehensive settlement with our Greek Cypriot partners

and to refrain from engaging in a blame game. A comprehensive settlement, no doubt, will enable us to realize the full potential of Cyprus, our common home, by enhancing cooperation, security and prosperity on the island and in the Eastern Mediterranean.

I should be grateful if the present letter could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 44, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Mehmet **Dâná**
Representative